

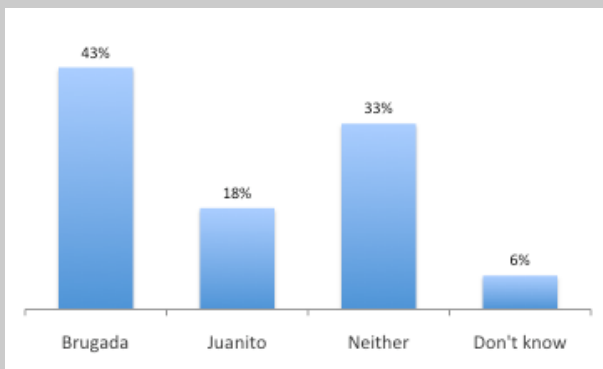
Alan Stoga, President
Daniel Wilson, Managing Director and Editor

Polls

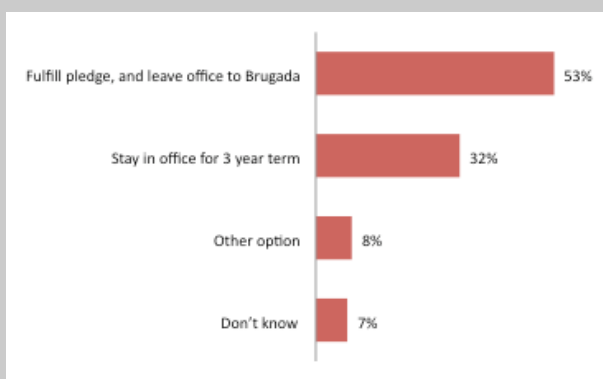
Voters prefer Brugada

A BGC/Excelsior poll of Iztapalapa residents in Mexico City showed that they preferred **Clara Brugada** as borough president by a wide margin, although 70% recognized that **Rafael Acosta**, aka **Juanito** won the vote on July 5. They believed that he should fulfill his pledge to take a leave of absence and turn the reins over to Brugada, AMLO's favored candidate for the borough – Mexico City's most populous, and the heart of the PRD's power base. ([Excelsior 9/28](#))

If the election were held today, for whom would you vote?



In your opinion, what should Juanito do?



Key Dates

11/15: Deadline for budget approval

by 12/31: Terms end for President of Banco de México, CNDH, and two Supreme Court ministers

Chávez ratified as Attorney General

By a vote of 75-27, with one abstention, the Senate ratified **Arturo Chávez Chávez** as Attorney General. The PAN, PRI, and PVEM voted in favor, with the PRD and PT against. PRI Senator **Jesús Murillo Karam** said that the PRI decided to support the nomination because the Ministry of Justice depended on the Presidency, and it was a way of keeping the President responsible for the performance of his Attorney General. In his first press conference, Chávez promised a clean up of the Ministry: "All the personnel of the PGR, starting with me, should to be subject to very rigorous examinations in order to ensure society that our responsibilities will be carried out by persons who are honest and committed to their wellbeing." ([Reforma 9/25](#))

PAN elders criticize government's tax plan

Former PAN Senator and presidential candidate **Diego Fernández de Cevallos** criticized the Government's tax plan: "If the government wants to bring in more resources to address so many problems and so many deficiencies, in my opinion, it ought to ... reduce tax rates and broaden the tax base and raise more revenues that way." Former President **Vicente Fox** said he favored a generalized 15% value added tax (i.e., not raising rates, but removing exemptions) while warning that only a successful economy could reduce poverty, not direct subsidy programs. ([Universal 9/28](#), [Reforma 9/26](#))

Human rights commission accuses military of torture

The National Human Rights Commission, CNDH, issued a formal report on a military operation in Ciudad Juárez earlier this year that concluded that the confessions of eight men who were caught in a military sweep were extracted by torture, including the use of electric shocks and asphyxiation with plastic bags. In addition, the men were held incommunicado for 24 hours before being turned over to the public prosecutor. The report called on the Ministry of Defense to give psychological and medical assistance to the men, and for military justice officials to begin an investigation of members of the 76th Infantry Battalion for probable illegal acts. ([Universal 9/28](#))

Dueling governments likely in Iztapalapa

AMLO protégé **Clara Brugada** declared herself president of the borough of Iztapalapa in Mexico City, even as **Rafael "Juanito" Acosta**, who won the vote but who had pledged to resign in favor of Brugada, repeated his vow to take office on October 1st. "They may ask me to resign, but I will not. I am the Delegate-elect. I won, and the people want me to govern," he said. ([Reforma 9/27](#))

PRD endorses electoral alliances with PAN, PRI

The PRD National Council endorsed the principle of a "broad opposition front" in next year's gubernatorial elections in Puebla, Oaxaca, and Veracruz. In practical terms, this means an alliance with the PAN against the PRI. In Tlaxcala, the Council endorsed an alliance with the PRI to unseat the PAN. Given internal opposition to any form of alliance with the PAN, a final decision will be taken next month. ([Reforma 9/27](#))

Kidnap gang leader captured

Abel Silva Petriciolet, the head of the most vicious kidnap gang in Mexico City, was captured by the Federal Police. He is believed to be responsible for at least 22 kidnappings in the city, including the notorious kidnap-murders of the teenagers **Fernando Marti** and **Antonio Equihua**. The continuing investigation is also expected to shed light on the involvement of the Mexico City police with the gang. ([Reforma 9/23](#))